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BALFOUR AND HIS BURDENS.

England, traditionally reserved and conservative in the expression of political opinion, however heated her domestic controversies may be, is now in the midst of a political campaign that for violence of invective, for extravagance of censure or of praise, according to the point of view of partisans, may well rival the boasted history of the American stump. For insinuation of unworthy motives, for denunciation of public conduct and methods, for sweeping allegations of incompetency, we must look for models to our disturbed and agitated British cousins, who have passed through a barren but very bitter parliamentary session and now await with impatience the election and formation of a new government that may or may not satisfy the politicians and the people of the nation, says the Call.

In the great parliamentary battle which has been fought for many months and which was ended by the king a few days ago three great figures, representing as many definitely defined public policies, were in the English eye. Far above the others in public praise of condemnation, lauded for qualities recognized by friendly followers, or denounced for failures construed by the desires of the opposition, was Mr. Balfour, the premier.

Hardly second in the agitated gaze of the English people, a master of empirical suggestion and reform or a dangerous theorist trifling with the country and its prosperity, as you please to look at him, was Joseph Chamberlain, the nearest approach in England to the manners and methods of an American statesman. And then came Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who, in the fire of controversy, has been characterized as the leader of honest men, exposing the straightforward heresies of Chamberlain and the dishonest subtleties of Balfour.

Through a long series of great debates, during which seven desperate but futile attempts were made to oust the government, these three men have been before the English public as the shining marks for indorsement or rebuke. And now, with parliament adjourned, the country rings with speculation regarding the character and personnel of the next government. A writer in the Contemporary Review, professing complete knowledge of the situation, assumes that the next administration will be a liberal one, but as the presumption is evidently an expression of the hope of Lord Rosebery, it has been advanced only to be assailed bitterly and vigorously.

As far as English public opinion may be sifted there appear to be three available liberal prime ministers, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Lord Rosebery and Lord Spencer. Subsidiary to this suggestion is another that the king should send for Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Lord Spencer as leaders of the opposition and deputize the latter to form an administration. While this brilliant scheme is hatching the other forces are saying nothing to indicate their final purpose in the organization of a new government. Meanwhile partisan papers are bristling with adjectives of abuse and giving to America a few examples that encroach upon our recognized supremacy in this field of political campaigning.

BREADSTUFF EXPORTS.

In the seven months of the current calendar year ended with July, American exports of breadstuffs amounted to only \$56,600,000. In the corresponding months of 1899, these exports amounted to \$142,000,000 and in the corresponding months of 1901, to \$164,000,000. These statistics serve to emphasize anew the rapidity with which foodstuff consumers in the United States, as compared with foodstuff producers, is increasing.

While the native suburban population of this country is swiftly augmenting every year, that population is annually receiving great accretions by reason of immigration. These new comers settle chiefly in the north-Atlantic states, in or near great centers of population. Only a small proportion of them, relatively, seeks the farming districts. They come here to engage in the first occupation which offers itself, and usually they enter into manufacturing or some manual handicraft to be found in cities and towns.

This constantly increasing addition to our population is equivalent to an extension in the foreign

demand for American agricultural products. Instead of exporting such products over the seas, they are sent to these busy centers of population on this side of the Atlantic to be consumed there. The economic result is, of course, the same as if they were exported. The general wealth of the republic is increased thereby just as much as if such products were sold to the outside world and gold were received in payment therefor.

Is the day approaching when the United States will cease to export breadstuffs? Indications point in that direction. Undoubtedly, we still have large tracts of land capable, by irrigation, of being made productive of wheat and other cereals, but our suburban population is growing so fast that it is not unlikely that we shall soon be measurably in the position that Great Britain was 60 years ago when the necessity for "cheap bread" compelled that country to alter its tariff policy.

If breadstuffs are being more largely consumed by our own people, it follows that pretty much the same must be the case with meat products, and if such be the fact, it implies a higher cost of living in the future, which can only mean that we shall labor under greater disadvantages in battling for new markets for American manufactured products.

NEWSPAPER POLITICS.

The New York World reports a number of changes in the politics of American newspapers that have been announced since the nominations were made. An examination of the list shows that some of the eastern democratic newspapers which revolted when Mr. Bryan captured the Chicago convention are now supporting Judge Parker. There is nothing surprising nor remarkable about the attitude of the New York city journals, such as the World, the Times, the Herald, the Post and the Brooklyn Eagle. These papers are naturally democratic and advocated the nomination of Judge Parker if Mr. Cleveland could not be induced to run. Their present support of the democratic ticket is due to the fact that Judge Parker sent his famous telegram to the St. Louis convention upon their threat to repudiate him unless he made a platform of his own more to their liking than the St. Louis document. Judge Parker promptly did what they declared in the morning papers before him he must do, and so retained their uncertain and conditional support. The Sun, however, is not in the list. It could not swallow the pill of the St. Louis platform, even sugar-coated by Judge Parker's telegram. It supports President Roosevelt.

On the other hand, there has been a significant change of sentiment among the western newspapers from Detroit and Chicago to the Pacific coast, which formerly supported Mr. Bryan. No less than 23 western newspapers are mentioned by the World which have come to the support of President Roosevelt. This is in accord with the sentiment of the west and undoubtedly that of the people of the country who are not, like the metropolitan press of the east, in close sympathy with Wall street and large corporate interests. Western newspapers reveal the pulse of the country better than the New York papers. The west is solid for Roosevelt, and nothing shows it better than the support he is receiving from many papers that opposed McKinley four and eight years ago.

IT WAS NOT ALWAYS SO.

It was not always the rule that European governments awaited the initiative of the United States on questions affecting world matters, but it is the rule today, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. It has been the rule practically since the close of the war with Spain; and emphatically so for the past three years. The United States took the initiative at the outbreak of the war between Japan and Russia in the note addressed by Secretary Hay to the belligerents, and to the powers of Europe, insisting on the scene of operations being confined to the territories of the two nations or to territories claimed and occupied by them. To that vigorous note the belligerents promptly assented, and Europe applauded while giving in its equally prompt assent.

The initiative was taken by the United States in the demand that Chinese territory and neutrality be rigidly observed and respected. The same priority and initiative and leadership is now accorded the United States in the serious question of Japanese violation of the neutrality of China in the capture of the Ryestihelni in the harbor of Chefoo. It was to the United States the guarantee of Chinese neutrality was due. It is, therefore, right and proper that to the United States priority should be given—as it is given—by Europe in the all-important Chefoo incident.

It is not alone a question of gratification nor of increase of national pride. Europe knows that the excellent, the cool, the comprehensive and the vigorous and just policy of the United States, displayed by the administration of President Roosevelt in matters affecting the contest between Japan and Russia, will be displayed in the settlement of the Chefoo incident and that it will be closed with added honor to his administration and without loss of honor to Japan or to Russia.

When one hears that Russell Sage is 88 years old, the first thing that comes to mind is what a lot of time he has missed wasting.



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